

Please see pages 13-15. Any opinions? (You could also put the names of the 1989 IDTR tournaments in the next IDTR weeks if there's room)

LIFE OF MONTY

87 **NOVEMBER 6, 1988** 16 PAGES
What did I forget last time? **55c**

By the time you read this, the 1988 Presidential election will be over, and whether it's four years of Bush (and people worried sick that he'll die and "that man" will become President), Dukakis (and four years of wondering whether "this man" will vacate the office, one way or another, and Lloyd Bentsen will take over), or everybody's favorite, "None Of The Above", it's another five weeks of *Life Of Monty*, by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (1)(415)461-2692, but only 5 PM - 11 PM Pacific time.

The hobby must be in trouble; it's time for . . .

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by anybody other than insurance companies and lawyers - after the 100/101/103/104/106 campaign, who can afford anything anymore?

For those of you who don't know, California's ballot included five propositions dealing with auto insurance, which is a major problem in this state. 104 is a "No-Fault" law, backed by insurance companies; 100 and 103 go for a straight rate cut, backed mainly by lawyers; 101 is a sort of in-between; 106, another insurance company idea, limits fees for plaintiffs' lawyers to a percentage (I think 15 percent of any award over \$50,000) of the award. And you thought Bush/Dukakis/Bentsen/Quayle was bad.

ISN'T IT IRONIC that India won't allow England's cricket team into their country this winter because England's captain led an unofficial "rebel" team to South Africa a few years ago - while India keeps right on going with its caste system and "untouchables". Speaking of sports, **THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING US** - when will Greg Louganis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and Florence Griffith-Joyner be named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsman/women Of The Year?

Next issue (if I get MIDCON results),
I'll have the final 1988 IDTR standings

HOUSE RULES for postal play of The Avalon Hill Game Company's *ENEMY IN SIGHT*

1. The current set of rules, plus any official errata as published by TAHGC, will be used except as modified in these house rules.

2. At the beginning of the game, each player receives six Ship cards and six Action cards (as per 4.2). All players will know which ships are in each player's line, but not what Action cards each player holds.

3. For each turn, each player writes a set of orders stating which card(s) will be played. In addition, certain cards require additional information:

A (normal) broadside requires the names of the firing and target ships, and whether aiming for hull or rigging;

A Rake must be declared as normal or Grape (assuming that the player has a boarding party - otherwise, it must be normal) and must specify the target ship and hull/rigging;

A Break The Line requires the names of the Line Breaking ships;

A Repair requires the name of the ship being repaired and the broadside card being removed (if there is more than one on that ship);

A Bucket Brigade card requires the name of the burning ship (if more than one is burning);

A Boarding Party card requires the names of the ship doing the boarding and the ship being boarded, as well as any Grape broadside and/or Rake card being fired, and also whether the boarded ship is to be a prize or part of the line if captured;

A Refuse Battle card requires the names of any ships to be moved to and/or from port, with towing ship(s) if applicable (note that it is always assumed that the card is being "played" unless the player's line is broken, in which case the card is "discarded");

A Fire Ship card requires the name of the target ship;

A Blockade card requires the name of the player whose port is being blockaded.

Note that if a player has any red Action cards, the player does not play a card; instead, the GM selects a red card at random from the player's hand and is played as follows:

A Fire card results in a randomly-selected eligible ship of that player receiving fire damage;

A Strike card results in each eligible in the player's line being checked for striking (7.83);

A Run Aground card results in a randomly selected eligible ship of that player being checked (7.84);

An Admiralty's Orders card results in a randomly selected eligible ship of that player returning to port (7.85).

If a player has no eligible ships that are affected by a played red Action card, the card is discarded without affecting other players

4. Once the deadline for orders is passed, the turn is processed as follows:

- (1) Any ship(s) with Fire cards increase their damage (7.821);
- (2) Red Action cards (other than Weather Gauge) selected by the GM to be played take effect;
- (3) Played Repair cards take effect;
- (4) Played Blockade cards take effect;
- (5) Played Refuse Battle cards take effect (note that ships moving to/from port must run any blockades played on that port in the same turn);
- (6) Broadships are played (all firing is simultaneous);
- (7) Played Break The Line cards take effect;
- (8) Played Boarding Parties are performed, with any Grape broadships/Rakes taking effect;
- (9) Played Additional Ship cards take effect;
- (10) If a Weather Gauge card is selected by the GM to be played, it takes effect;
- (11) Players receive new Action cards if applicable.

5. Orders may be made conditional on any events which may occur in numbered phases before the played card is to take effect. For example, a player may not order "Fire broadside at the *Monarca* if someone else is firing at the *Revenge*", but may order "If the *Revenge* is not dismasted, board the *Monarca*". Also, players may order conditional Grape broadships/Rakes for each ship in their line in case of boarding. (If, subsequently, there are not enough broadships/Rakes to handle all of the defensive Grape requests, the GM will fill as many of the player's requests as possible, using random selection when necessary.)

6. Each set of orders should include the player's name, "line name" (each player may select a name for that player's line of ships), the turn number, the date the orders were written, and any press. Press will be printed with each turn report, but the originator of each item will always be printed regardless of the "dateline" used.

7. In case a player's orders are not received, the GM will follow the following procedure:

- (1) An Additional Card ship is played;
 - (2) If the player has a Repair card and a ship with damage, the largest damage card is repaired using the card (if more than one card has the largest number, higher rated cards have priority, then random selection);
 - (3) The player's lowest-damage (lower-numbered rate has priority in case of a tie) unplayable broadside card is discarded;
 - (4) The player's lowest-damage (lower-numbered rate has priority in case of a tie) broadside card is discarded;
 - (5) A randomly-selected card is discarded.
- Any (remaining) playable broadsides are assigned to ships to fire Grape in defense of boarding parties.

8. At any time, the players may concede the game to one or more of the players by unanimous consent. Should two players be conceded to simultaneously, they share a joint victory. It is also a joint victory if two players reach or exceed the victory score at the end of the same hand and have the same high score.

9. *The victory condition is 50 points at the end of a hand unless otherwise agreed upon.* (100 points is too high for a five-week-per-card-play game.)

10. PRESS: "Press releases" may be submitted with orders and will be printed with the results. You may name any "dateline" for your press, but the author will be identified to avoid ambiguity. The GM has the right to edit press for whatever reason the GM can come up with at the moment. ("There's no room" and "It was obscene" are the usual ones.)

**NOVEMBER 5, 1988
HAPPY (TENTH) 30th
BIRTHDAY
KATHY CARUSO**

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS 2 - BATTLE LINES FINALLY DRAWN
 Since the primaries are over, the results have been brought back into the 'zine instead of separately.

	GE	CO	SW	DA	JH	MAH
CALIFORNIA PRIMARY						
Momentum	301	1202	1509	1509	1202	301
Travel	0	64	454	434	541	65
SIGs	113	113	66	529	172	172
Issues	81	243	81	437	323	243
Organizers	0	491	1721	1232	983	246
Media	0	539	1889	1889	539	270
TOTAL	495	2652	5720	6030	3760	1297
DELEGATES	7	34	127	235	82	28
Funds	20	40	144	102	82	20

NEW JERSEY PRIMARY						
Momentum	66	263	329	231	231	66
Travel	0	0	96	211	0	82
SIGs	88	242	94	375	189	189
Issues	42	123	185	42	42	42
Organizers	0	156	546	546	78	156
Media	0	139	485	485	0	0
TOTAL	196	923	1735	1890	540	535
DELEGATES	3	15	48	91	18	15
Funds	8	15	59	59	15	8

NEW MEXICO PRIMARY						
Momentum	9	36	45	36	45	9
Travel	0	13	0	10	10	13
SIGs	2	1	8	1	5	1
Issues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organizers	0	15	46	46	15	7
Media	0	0	60	8	16	60
TOTAL	11	65	159	101	91	90
DELEGATES	1	4	17	15	7	6
Funds	8	15	59	59	15	8

SOUTH DAKOTA PRIMARY						
Momentum	5	23	28	26	26	5
Travel	0	15	0	0	10	0
SIGs	19	11	75	11	49	11
Issues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organizers	0	13	17	13	17	4
Media	0	0	38	10	38	0
TOTAL	24	62	158	60	140	19
DELEGATES	1	4	17	4	14	1
Funds	8	15	59	15	59	8

	GE	CO	SW	DA	JH	MAH
WEST VIRGINIA PRIMARY						
Momentum	17	70	87	79	79	17
Travel	0	41	0	0	10	23
SIGs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organizers	58	72	14	72	14	58
Media	0	106	0	106	0	0
TOTAL	75	299	101	257	103	98
DELEGATES	2	13	3	30	7	7
Funds	8	59	15	59	15	8

GE stands for Greg Ellis; CO for Cathy Ozog; SW for Stephen Wilcox; DA for Dave Anderson; JH for Jake Halverstadt; MAH for Melinda Ann Holley.

Now that the primaries are finally over, let's take a look at the conventions.

REPUBLICANS: The Republicans gathered in New Orleans to crown their man for the White House, the senator from Texas, Stephen Wilcox. Suprisingly enough, Wilcox just managed to gather enough delegates to get him nominated on the first ballot; his 1064 was slightly more than half of the 2015 there. (Things weren't any easier when it was reported that Utah's "official report" listed one delegate too many; Wilcox had 15, not 16.) Appropriately enough, Texas put their man over the top, but only by passing in the first go-round and being the last state to cast votes. As expected, Wilcox selected Iowa governor Greg Ellis, third in the running, as the VP choice, since Washington senator Cathy Ozog is filling the second spot on the third-party ticket.
Final Totals: Stephen Wilcox 1064; Cathy Ozog 610; Greg Ellis 341.

DEMOCRATS: In Atlanta, everyone waited to find out if Iowa senator Dave Anderson would carry the day on the first ballot, since Colorado governor Jake Halverstadt, leading the Halverstadt-Ozog independent ticket, was planning to give his delegates to West Virginia governor Melinda Ann Holley after the first ballot. Nobody waited long before the incredible happened; a UFO hovered over the Omni, and below it materialized - Oregon congressman Michael Hopcroft, ready to hand his delegates to Anderson if necessary. It wasn't; with big wins in California and New Jersey, Anderson's 2040 was over half of the 3934 there. Anderson then named Holley for the second spot on the Demo ticket.
Final Totals: Dave Anderson 2040, Jake Halverstadt 1251, Melinda Ann Holley 605, Michael Hopcroft 38.

Travel	0	36	7	14	36	32(8)
Name recog.	0	2	0	15	65	35(15)
Funds	52	144	336	294	186	52
WEEK 13 END	529	346	800	694	676	135

Numbers in parentheses indicate Melinda's home spending bonus for West Virginia.

	REP	DEM	IND
President's CFP	800	694	676
VP's CFP	529	135	346
Bonus	1000	1000	300
CFP TOTAL	2329	1829	1322

ORGANIZERS FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

SW	GE	DA	MAH	JH	CO
140	0	140	20	100	120

RULES CLARIFICATIONS: Jake wants Cathy to be able to send in some of their ticket's spending orders. Let me clarify the spending rules: either or both members of a ticket can send in SIG and issue spending, but if both send in SIG (or issue) orders for the same state, the presidential candidates' orders take precedence. (One player can send in SIG spending and the other issue spending for the same state, with both sets of orders being used.)

SIG TOTALS as of the Conventions

	REP	DEM	IND
Business	4.22	2.26	2.33
Conservative	3.65	2.33	2.42
Ecology	2.09	3.09	3.66
Elderly	3.75	2.28	2.62
Farm	4.27	3.17	3.78
Labor	2.60	3.52	3.74
Military	3.09	3.04	2.10
Non-White	1.97	4.53	4.15
Poor	1.44	3.50	3.54
Urban	1.83	4.47	3.83

Remember, stands taken in Turn 14 (only) will be combined with these to determine the 50 CFP bonuses.

TURN 14 orders will be:

STANDS for as many of issues 53-64 as each ticket wants. Remember, each *party* makes one stand per issue; if both persons in a ticket take a stand for the same issue, the Presidential candidate's stand is used.

TRAVEL for each person (separately). Stephen and Greg begin in New Orleans; Dave and Melinda begin in Atlanta; Cathy begins in Seattle; Jake begins in Denver. There is no CFP cost to go to these cities from wherever you were at the end of turn 13.

ORGANIZERS for each person (again, separately), except Greg, who doesn't have any.

SIG spending (and any remaining stands) will be in turn 15; issue spending in turn 16; name recognition spending in turn 17, the final turn.

KINGMAKER "STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF" - instead of boring you with all of the details, let's get to the moves that mean something:

Margaret and Edward are controlled by Neville
NEVILLE and STANLEY (Shrewsbury(g))-Coventry

CROMWELL (Royston)-h25-h22-Kenilworth*
SCROPE remains at Newcastle
ROOS remains at Chester(g)

POLE (Royston)-St. Albans-h23-Kenilworth* (note Warwick and Kenilworth are, in fact, the same square)
HERBERT (w10)-Chirk-Newcastle*
GREYSTOKE (w10)-w7-w2-Chester(g)*
HASTINGS (w10)-Chirk-w7-w2

With the White Duchess not getting in the way, Neville (with the two surviving royals) and Stanley, Archbishop of Canterbury, enter Coventry Cathedral. Just as the crown is placed on Margaret's head, the blade comes down on Edward's neck.

As Dave Anderson controls the noble who has the sole surviving (Lancastrian) heir as Queen, he wins the game. Congratulations to Dave and well played, the rest of you (especially Cathy who put up a fight until the end).

You want to know something? I didn't realize it until someone told me at ORIGINS - but the bottom row of sea squares on the PBM map does not exist on the new map! (I also see that there is a second edition of the *rules* available.) I may have to draw up a new PBM map myself.

END GAME STATEMENTS, anyone?

RAILWAY RIVALS "STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF",
ROUND 3 - No traffic problems between Leicester and Nottingham

By the way - in round 2, GOERS paid 1 to NUT for M20

GOERS (Brown): K18 - Wolverhampton - H 18, M 18 - A 59;
A 59 - Coventry, A 59 - C 60 (2 to NUT for A 61, C 60);
Stoke - T 9

GREEN RAILWAY COMPANY (Goode): B 52 - A 53 - M 12 - M 11,
N 3 - Leeds; E 4 - D 4 - D 7 - E 7; E 7 - Bolton,
D 7 - Liverpool, B 52 - C 53 (1 to COSALT for C 53)

EXCITEMENT CITY UNLIMITED (Longstaff):
London - H 70 - G 71; G 71 - C 69 - Oxford; Oxford - B 65

SEX (Holley): Doncaster - E 48 - E 49 - F 49 - F 50 - G 51;
G 51 - H 51 - I 51 - Lincoln - K 52; K 52 - M 53 - N 52 - N 51

NUT (von Metzke): Leicester - Nottingham;
Nottingham - D 52 - E 52 - E 50; Birmingham - G 19

GREAT GRIMSBY COAL & SALT COMPANY (Watts):
Nottingham - Leicester; Leicester - D 63 - E 64; E 64 - E 65,
C 50 - D 49 - Doncaster

Underlined cities mean that they have been reached for the first
time and award the 6 bonus to that company

ACCOUNTS

GOERS: 31 + 6 (Wolverhampton) + 6 (Coventry) - 2 (NUT) = 41

GREEN: 42 + 6 (Bolton) + 6 (Liverpool) - 1 (COSALT) = 53

ECU: 35 + 6 (Oxford) = 41

SEX: 40

NUT: 36 + 2 (from GOERS) = 38

COSALT: 32 + 1 (from GREEN) = 33

PRESS

ECU - SEX, GREEN, and COSALT: Hi, people. Nice of you to
drop in.

ROUND 4 BUILDS: 5 - 6 - 5

ROUND 4 DEADLINE is DECEMBER 8

W A R Z

I'm surprised you have time to talk, Princess Luscious, as John Pole-O is still looking at you after you said "Look and Feel".

"Excuse me - Look and Feel?"

Oboe-1 Caruso interrupts, and not a moment too soon. "That ship out there is loaded with who-knows-what just waiting to blast us because our windows and trashcan inside the Linoleum Falcon have the look and feel of Golden Delicious computers, and in the meantime we're busy chasing the Diplomatic Bad Boys because they stole THE BOURSE."

"I heard 'look and feel' again."

"DOWN, John Pole-O! DOWN, BOY!"

Rod Seaparter, recently-deposed EMPEROR, stares into space, or at least space which is occupied by that mystery ship chasing them. "What EVIL, VILE, LIVE weapons do they have?"

"Evil? Vile? Live?" ILOM responds. "How about another permutation?"

"Of course!" the Princess responds. "VEIL - get the veils out and we'll disguise ourselves." (THWACK) "NOT so HARD, Seaparter. You may break that steel pipe next time."

"I have a feeling," Oboe-1 says in one of those worried voices, "that ILOM means-"

Suddenly, in one of the corners, which is hard to explain since everything is more or less round, appears - "HI Y'ALL!"

"ELVI - Garra the Elvi master. Okay, mister I'm-better-than-you-are-just-because-(deep inhale)-I-know-everything-and-YOU-don't, what do you recommend about this situation?"

"The obvious one - just..."

And what timing - as on the mystery ship:

"Nice paint job, Lord Sacks Fifthavenue. Nobody will ever know that it's you."

(ZOT) "I want people to know that it's me. Now, load those *Penguin Dip*, *Random Thought*, and all of the different 'zines from anybody who says that they're MNC, unstable as those may be. Now, aim and fire!"

"Aim and (FLASH) FIRE! OOPS - that flash modified the automatic direction device by about, oh, that much to the left."

What flash?

"Okay, Baldo Calberchian, you can put your hat back on. Say, where did that attack of *Random Thought*, *Penguin Dip*, and miscellaneous MNC 'zines end up?"

Now for a quick peek on the Diplomatic Bad Boys ship, *Dear Mother*:

"Where are we headed this time?"

"Now that we have THE BOURSE, we can start our major campaign to TOTALLY DEGRADE and ABSOLUTELY SLEDGE EVERY PERSON WITHIN BITCHING DISTANCE. First of all, Earl of Peericlees - well - he could lose a bit of weight."

"What about that attack that is mere fractions of seconds from punching a hole in this ship's hull and very possibly utterly destroying us and spreading our remains to various planetary systems where the mere presence of our remains will cause all governments on that planet to forget their petty differences and declare a full holiday?"

Well, that would have been said in its entirety had the attack not found its new mark just fractions of seconds after "fractions of seconds". But the bit about remains and full holidays was a bit far-fetched; true, six planets did say that they had confirmed remains of the Diplomatic Bad Boys, but only four declared planetwide holidays, and one - the Yndia planet in the Brish Commonwealth of planets - had the remains found by the "Unteachables", who decided to make a sporting trophy out of it, but the contests for "The Remains" will result in larger and bloodier wars than if Lord Sacks Fifthavenue would PERSONALLY deliver one of his speeches - well, no, but it would be close.

As for THE BOURSE - indestructable as it is, and it is, so yes, it is, anyway, it's neverthenonetheless succceptable to laws of n -dimensional gravity and ended up being sucked into another universe through a BOURSE-sized black hole.

"Follow that boursel" yells Rod Seaparter, and the *Linoleum Falcon* changes course for heading +23.35, -11.12, -156.33, diving straight into the black hole. Which brings up the question: what happens when a larger-than-BOURSE-sized thing tries to force its way through a BOURSE-sized black hole?

CRUNCH GRIND WHIRRRRR

"We're stuck halfway between universe -1, 0, -1 and universe +1, +1, -1."

"Seaparter," responded John Pole-O, "do you have any *news* for us?"

"Well, there's that mystery ship which looks like Lord Sacks Fifthavenue's ship with a paint job which isn't stuck and is still heading straight for us, and in the meantime THE BOURSE is floating around out there waiting for any idiots--"

"Like us?"

"Of course - anyway, waiting for any idiots to pick it up and do who-knows-what."

You'll have to wait at least two issues to find out what, as the annual DIP BOWL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP appears next time.



DIPLOMACY - Holley, Dorneman, Anderson, Bajuk signed up. Need three more.

KINGMAKER - *THE REMATCH* - Anderson, Ozog signed up. Need 2-4 more. (The more, the merrier.) \$2 NMR deposit required - sorry.

1830 - Goode, Pierce signed up. Need 2-4 more. \$2 NMR deposit required

FALISMAN - Dorneman, Pierce signed up. Basic rules only. Some modifications will be made. \$2 NMR deposit required

KREMLIN - Anderson signed up. Need at least three more. *Meanwhile, anybody interested in a Megadiplomacy KREMLIN variant?*

ENEMY IN SIGHT - House rules included in this issue. Need four.

More space filler . . . the latest issue of *Retaliation* has arrived from Dick Martin, 17601 Lisa Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-1319. 42 full-sized pages can be yours for \$1, although there are no game openings. Let's see what he said:

"This issue sees the filling of my last Dip game of the century. That's right, I don't plan to open any new games for at least the next year." Actually, "this decade" ends on 12/31/1990, so that's the next *two years*. On top of that, Dick used a run-on sentence.

"Hershiser, good as he was, should not have been the MVP." We must have been watching two different World Series. In the one I saw, the Dodgers won a game they had no business winning, then made up for it by losing one they had no business losing - but the A's (er, uh, Athletics) didn't have to bother showing up to those two games with Hershiser on the mound.

"Some less informed people say baseball is boring." Some people say *cricket* is boring. (And, in cases like Gloucestershire County vs. Glamorgan County, it is. On the other hand, England vs. West Indies, especially when the Windies deliver their 90 MPH head-removers, is a sight.)

"Most creative envelope this month goes to the wit who sent in one of those self-addressed, stamped envelopes which our Favorite Pollster is so prone to handing out." If he could get twenty of them, maybe he could turn them in for a free copy of the results.

MEETING OF MINDS #22

This is *Meeting Of Minds*, the subzine of International Diplomacy Tournament Ratings (IDTR), written and published by the IDTR Chairman, Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (1)(415)461-2692.

I have heard nothing from *Gateway*, held over Labor Day weekend in in Los Angeles. As a result, no IDTR points will be given out for this tournament. (I doubt that anybody in the tournament cares very much.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP

(the fourth one) was held October 8-10 somewhere in the state of South Australia, organized as usual by Andrew England (who, by the way, won *(Australian) Can-Con* in January). Sixteen persons managed to make the trip, with three unofficial "filler" players to fill up three boards in each of the first two rounds. The top seven players advanced to the championship game, with an unofficial "second seven" game replacing the usual final game Bourse.

There's one thing Australian has beaten us on: they got a brewery as one of their sponsors. (It would have been quite appropriate for some of the tournaments I've been to.)

FINAL RESULTS (and IDTR points for this tournament)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 George Smirnow (8) | 9 Frank Meerbach |
| 2 Neil Smark (6) | 10 Ben Aveling |
| 3 Bill Brown (5) | 11 Michael Gibson |
| 4 Simon Miles (4) | 12 Michael Hopton |
| 5 James Vickers (3) | 13 Duncan Sparrow |
| 6 Alan Howard (2) | 14 Ben Groenen |
| 7 Robert Wessels (1) | 15 Warner Airey |
| 8 Mathew Gibson | 16 Duncan Baxter |

Neil Smark, with his second place at *Can-Con*, now has 21 points for 1988.

One correction from last time: the "east coast Diplomacy-only gathering" was *not* Robert Sacks' idea, but was brought up and discussed at the hobby meeting that he runs as part of *Atlanticon* each year.

ATTENTION ALL DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT ORGANIZERS IN NORTH AMERICA: Remember to send in your tournament results once completed for North American Tournament Rating (NATR) points. (The same rating system as for IDTR is used.)

ROUND TABLE OF MINDS

This is a special section of *Meeting Of Minds* which will attempt to deal with one of IDTR's pressing questions - is the rating system fair? Already this year, two tournament organizers (Robert Sacks of *Atlanticon* and Andrew England of *South Australian Diplomacy Championship*) have said that the current IDTR rating system, which bases a winner's points solely on how many people were in the tournament and lower placings as a fraction of the winner's points, has some flaws. Robert suggests that how many boards each player played in a tournament be included as a factor; Andrew points out that Australia's smaller tournaments (their two big tournaments drew 38 and 16 people) make it impossible for Australians to do well in the overall ratings regardless of how well they really played, and that "players performances in games are what counts".

When I developed the first IDTR system, I had to take into account that different tournaments have different methods and scoring systems. Some have "final boards" (championship games) or seeded rounds based on how well the players did in the first round; others don't use previous rounds in determining who plays who in subsequent rounds. Some use supply center count-based scoring systems; others use Calhamer Point-based (win/draw-based) systems; still others combine the two. It's not always possible to get the information on individual games. I had to develop a system that awarded points based *solely* on what place each person finished in a tournament, since that's usually the only information available (other than final scores based on the tournament's own scoring system - but that isn't always a fair comparison of how well the players did against each other).

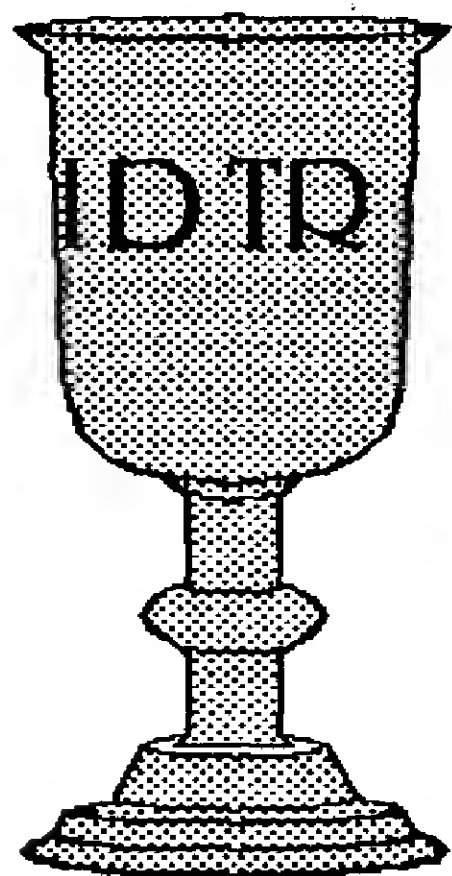
Two questions remained: first, how many points to award the winner of a tournament so that different tournaments could be compared as fairly as possible, and second, how many points to award persons finishing below the winner in any given tournament.

To answer the first question: it seems to me that a person winning a 100-person tournament did twice as well as a person winning a 50-person tournament (after all, the first one defeated 99 other players, while the second defeated 49), so the number of points the winner gets is proportional to (in IDTR, one-half of) the number of people in the tournament.

As for the second question: well, nobody really understood how the first system worked (that's the main reason I changed it), but I needed a system where two high placings were better than a first place by itself. After experimenting with various values, I selected a 5/6 ratio between consecutive players, which means that fourth place is worth slightly more than half of first place (before dropping fractions).

What I want to know from you is: do you feel that this is the right approach, or can you come up with some new ideas? Should I use factors other than number of persons in the tournament and a person's placing to determine ratings for that tournament? (Keep in mind that it is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain every bit of information from every tournament. Certainly, supply center charts for each game played in the tournament isn't feasible.) How should first, second, third, etc. places be compared in a single tournament? (Should it be based on how well they did in the tournament, based on the tournament's scoring system? Should second place always be worth one point less than first?)

Remember that the IDTR system is attempting to find the top *tournament players*. (That is, the persons who do the best in *tournament play throughout the year*.) This is not an attempt to find the "World Champion". There's already a fairer way of doing that; *World Dip Con*. (It's a lot easier for everyone to come to one tournament rather than having everybody travel from place to place. IDTR is for those persons who feel that there's more to tournament play than single championship tournaments.)



1988 IDTR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Australian CAN-CON

DIXIECON

ORIGINS

ATLANTICON

MANORCON

DIPCON XXII

Canadian CAN-CON

PACIFICON

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP**

MIDCON

PLEASE NOTE that CANADIAN CAN-CON has been added to the list. It was left off the list from last time by mistake. Also, the "East Coast Diplomacy-Only Tournament" will probably not be held in 1989 - but if it is, it will be added to the list. More on this if it develops.

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